

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-03 INR-05 L-02 ACDA-05

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FM USMISSION NATO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9355

SECDEF WASHDC

INFO USCINCEUR

USNMR SHAPE

USDEL MBFR VIENNA

USMISSION GENEVA

CINCUSAREUR

CINCUSNAVEUR

CINCUSAFE

USDOCOSOUTH

AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L USNATO 6979

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MPOL, NATO, UK

SUBJECT: RAF REDUCTIONS IN CYPRUS

FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF LETTER FROM UK PERM REP (PECK) TO SYG
LUNS DATED DECEMBER 17, 1974.

BEGIN TEXT:

1. AS I HAVE ALREADY INFORMED YOU ORALLY THE MINISTER OF
STATE FOR DEFENCE MR WILLIAM RODGERS, WHEN WINDING UP THE
DEFENCE DEBATE ON 16 DECEMBER, REFERRED TO SOME REDUCTIONS
IN THE RAF PRESENCE IN CYPRUS IN THE FOLLOWING TERMS:
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" WE INTEND TO MAKE SOME EARLY REDUCTIONS IN OUR
FORCES STATIONED IN THE SOVEREIGN BASE AREAS IN CYPRUS, NOT
BECAUSE OF DEFENCE REVIEW CONSIDERATIONS BUT BECAUSE OF THE
NEED TO RELIEVE THE PRESENT, SEVERE PERSONNEL OVERCROWDING

WITHIN THE BASES. FOR THAT REASON, WE SHALL BEGIN TO THIN OUT OUR AIR FORCES THERE EARLY IN THE NEW YEAR. THESE REDUCTIONS TO MEET THE PROBLEM OF OVERCROWDING ARE WITHOUT PREJUDICE TO THE OUTCOME OF THE CONSULTATIONS WITH OUR ALLIES ON THE DEFENCE REVIEW TO WHICH MY RIGHT HONOURABLE FRIEND REFERRED IN HIS STATEMENT ON 3 DECEMBER."

2. FOR YOUR CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION I WOULD LIKE YOU TO KNOW THAT WHAT IS ENVISAGED IS THE WITHDRAWAL TO THE UNITED KINGDOM OF THE VULCAN, LIGHTNING AND HERCULES SQUADRONS OF AIRCRAFT WHICH WOULD BE REPLACED BY SMALLER DETACHMENTS OF THESE AIRCRAFT ON ROTATION FROM THE UNITED KINGDOM. THERE WOULD BE AN ASSOCIATED REDUCTION IN SOME OF THE SUPPORTING RAF ELEMENTS IN CYPRUS ALTHOUGH THE SAM SQUADRON WOULD REMAIN. THIS WOULD ENABLE THE RAF TO WITHDRAW 1600(ABOUT ONE THIRD) OF THE RAF PERSONNEL IN THE SOVEREIGN BASE AREA IN CYPRUS. YOU WILL REALISE THAT THIS IS IN LINE WITH THE PROPOSAL TO WITHDRAW "OUR AIR FORCES BASED PERMANENTLY IN CYPRUS" OF WHICH I INFORMED THE COUNCIL IN MY STATEMENT OF 3 DECEMBER.

3. I SHOULD ADD, HOWEVER, THAT THESE REDUCTIONS ARE IN THE SHORT TERM NOT A PART OF THE UNITED KINGDOM DEFENCE REVIEW BUT ARE DICTATED BY THE OVERCROWDING PROBLEM WHICH HAS ARISEN AS A RESULT OF HAVING TO CONCENTRATE ALL PERSONNEL INSIDE THE SOVEREIGN BASE AREAS IN CYPRUS.

4. I AM COPYING THIS LETTER TO ALL OUR COLLEAGUES ON THE DEFENCE PALNNING COMMITTEE. END TEXT. BRUCE

CONFIDENTIAL

<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

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